

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing on March 14, 2006, entitled "GSA Contractors Who Cheat on Their Taxes and What Should Be Done About It." The March 14 hearing will be the third hearing on Federal contractors with unpaid tax debt. In February 2004, the subcommittee held a hearing entitled "DOD Contractors Who Cheat on Their Taxes, which examined the IRS' failure to collect \$3 billion in unpaid taxes owed by contractors doing business with the Department of Defense, DOD, and getting paid with taxpayer dollars. In June 2005, the Subcommittee held a hearing entitled "Civilian Contractors Who Cheat on Their Taxes", which identified an additional \$3.3 billion in unpaid taxes and demonstrated that the problem of tax delinquent Federal contractors is not confined to DOD. Because of the potential revenue that could be collected by the Federal Payment Levy Program from non-DOD contractors, the subcommittee expanded the coverage of the investigation to include contractors at other Federal agencies who receive Federal contract payments and are delinquent in paying their taxes. In the continuing investigation of Federal contractors who do not pay their taxes, the subcommittee plans to hold a hearing on March 14 on the General Service Administration's contractors who are tax delinquent. Federal contractors who owe taxes are still allowed to do business with the Federal Government. The hearing will explore the extent to which these contractors are tax delinquent and what can be done about it.

The subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Raymond V. Shepherd, III, Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 7, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony from combatant commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the Future Years Defense Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 7, 2006, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "Assessing the Current Oversight and Operation of Credit Rating Agencies."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 10 a.m. on Rural Telecom.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate and on Tuesday, March 7 at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to discuss the goal of energy independence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 10 a.m. in SD-430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, to hear the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The hearing will take place in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sub-

committee on Strategic Forces be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 7, 2006, at 2:45 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on the nuclear weapons and defense environmental cleanup activities of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years nuclear security program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the first 15 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final 15 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; further, that the Senate then resume consideration of S. 2349, the lobbying reform bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate will resume consideration of the lobbying reform bill tomorrow. Senators who have amendments to this bill should be working with bill managers, as they are trying to expedite the amendment process. Senators should expect full days this week as we work toward passage of this bill.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it be in order for the Democratic leader to offer an amendment to the lobbying reform bill, and following his statement, the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2349) to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 2932 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2349 (Purpose: To provide additional transparency in the legislative process)

Mr. REID. I send an amendment to the desk.